

CHINA.

Our latest dates by the *Lima*, are to the 28th of October.

The *Friend of China*, of the 12th October, in a general summary of news for the overland mail, furnishes the following information:—

Earthquake, Hurricane, and War, three of mankind's greatest terrors, have all been experienced in this part of the world since the publication of our last overland summary. Of the earthquake, felt both in Mongong and Canton about the same time on Thursday the 21st ultimo, we find no mark of the phenomena on the earth's crust; and can say no more of it than that it was a grand work.

Boats' crews from H. M. S. Spartan, under command of Lieutenant Palmer, have been doing good service against pirates on the West Coast, and succeeded in rescuing a French lady (Madame Fanny Loviot) who had been taken by pirates from the *sloop* of the Chinese *clipper* *Calista*.

SHANGHAI.—From Shanghai, we learn that the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and America were about leaving the *Portuguese* *Rath*, *Portuguese* *lancha*, the ostensible object of the expedition being the revival of the *Treaties*. France is not, on this occasion, to be represented, Admiral Laguerre having refused M. de Béthune the use of the steam *sloop* *Calibet*. No definite information has reached us regarding Samqua, but a rumorsque is the heavy penalty likely to be inflicted on him. Consul Alcock is expected to leave shortly for Canton, and Mr. Robertson will proceed to Shanghai.

ADMIRAL SIR JAMES STERLING AND HIS FLEET AT JAPAN.

H. M. STEAMERS *Encounter* and *Barracouta* arrived in the harbour on Wednesday, the 27th of October, and the Winchester yesterday morning, from Japan. Rumours are plentiful as to what the Admiral has been doing, one of them being that his Excellency had successfully negotiated for the opening of four (some say five) ports to British trade. The following brief notes, however, may be relied on as substantially correct.

The expedition left Wusong on the 1st September, on the 5th anchored in the outer roadstead of Nangasaki, and the following morning, by permission of the Governor, wended into the inner harbour, there to await the arrival of Foo-chow. Never was there a greater dilemma than to suppose that his Excellency's visit has been to the immediate prospect of an outbreak. Trade goes on as usual, and people seem to pursue their daily employment without fear. But in proportion as the Chinese Government feel themselves strong in any locality, to the same extent they manifest a disposition to make engagements with foreigners. A great deal has been written and said about Sir John Bowring's recent visit, and the remarkable attention which he received from the local government at Foo-chow. Never was there a greater dilemma than to suppose that his Excellency's visit has been an advantage to the foreign mercantile community at Foo-chow. Since his visit and interview with the Viceroy, the Mandarins have thrown every possible obstacle in the way of the foreign merchants, and are bent upon breaking every promise which the British plenipotentiary imagines that the Chinese Viceroy made to him. The port of Foo-chow has been opened with the native merchants, and promises of an immense export of tea, far beyond the most sanguine calculations, bid fair to render Foo-chow the great mart for black tea on the Chinese coast during the present troubles. And when the tea trade has been diverted into the new channel, it is not difficult to foresee that Foo-chow is likely to become a permanent port for Chinese traders from the interior, destined to bring their produce to foreigners. The old duplicity and faithlessness of the Mandarins has, however, as usual, come into play, and the port has been left untried by them for preventing an extension of intercourse with foreigners and crushing the first beginnings of a foreign settlement in the provincial capital. Many of the leading British and American firms have their agents on the spot; large commercial transactions have taken place; for godowns and dwelling-houses have been purchased by foreign firms; and, at present, have been settled with the native proprietors on the lines of the ground actually occupied. All that remained was only the formal affixing of the seal of the Mandarins. But, to the present time we were told remonstrances, entreaties, and threats have proved unsuccessful, and the foreign merchants cannot take a single step towards building on their lots. Hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of valuable property lie unsafe deposited in places where there is not the slightest security against fire and plunder, and all these vexatious hindrances have been increased and aggravated since Sir John Bowring's interview with the Viceroy. The truth is, Sir John has been deceived by the Viceroy, and the Chinese Government and all the spirited correspondence and demands that his Excellency should be admitted at the Viceroy's Yamen through the large central door-way of the *cewai*, instead of (as the Chinese Viceroy at first proposed) his sedan chair being set down outside the narrow side door, has ended in nothing but complaints and show. Sir John carried his point; he was carried through the large door-way; he made arrangements with all who graciously assented to, and the present seat of danger of the Chinese Government and alluring prospect of the two millions of dollars in arrears at Shanghai extorted from the Viceroy an abundance of promises, fictions, and courtesies. To every demand of the British Plenipotentiary the Viceroy had a ready reply, intimating that it should be granted as a matter of course, and was to be left to the amiable arrangement of the Acting Vice-Consul and the Prefect. No sooner was Sir John Bowring's hand cut than Mr. Vice-Consul Gingell, who had been sent by the Chinese Government to the Chinese Consul, and to every request and remonstrance which he has addressed to the Prefect, the latter functionary has made one uniform and unvarying reply, that "the Plenipotentiary and the Viceroy will make it a matter of mutual arrangement, and that he himself has no power or authority to act with the Vice-Consul in the matter!" Thus the foreign merchants vent their complaints to the Vice-Consul, and the Vice-Consul in turn, in his turn, makes a similar complaint to the Chinese Mandarins. Foreign commerce suffers seriously from these delays and restrictions. Ground, already agreed for, cannot be legally made over to the purchasers, and no workmen can be found willing to face the known hostility of the Mandarins. Thus the Viceroy has humoured the British Plenipotentiary in the matter of mere etiquette, and the latter has received a lesson of their duplicity which it is to be hoped will open his eyes to the real character of the Chinese Government and dynasty, which he is seeking to bring up.

Shanghai is quiet, but how long the Mandarins can ward off the coming blow, is very uncertain. An immense number of junks block up the mouth of the river off Chinghai, and also in the river off the city of Ningpo, partly unable to dispose of their cargoes, but more generally deterred by fear of pirates from venturing out to sea. The whole country is out of joint, and things must become much worse before they are likely to get better. The piratical force from the South, which had been sent to the Taku, has been sent to the river, the rebels at Shanghai are now assembled in great force in the Chusan group, attacking and destroying without mercy or distinction every craft, whether native or European, which comes within its reach. Great fears are entertained of their being emboldened to attack Ningpo; and in that case, the city would not be unlikely to fall into their hands. Apak, the noted pirate chief, is in Ningpo, and openly levies black mail. The English Vice-Consul has written urgent communications to the same Naval officer in command at Shanghai, reporting the dangers of the city, and the importance of despatching a vessel of war in search of the pirates. This state of things shows to what straits the Chinese Government is reduced, when it calls to its aid against its own rebellious subjects a band of pirates who one month are the paid mercenaries of His Imperial Majesty, and the next month may become a buccaneering squadron dealing destruction and rapine upon the inoffensive and defenceless population along the coast. How the present dynasty can much longer stand on its legs, will be seen.

It is all but powerless for the protection of the sea ports.

In another summary of the 28th of the same month (October), the *Friend of China* says:—

Two mails from Europe have come to hand since last despatch hence—that of the 25th of August on the 12th instant, and the mail of the 9th September on the day before yesterday.

Our latest news from Shanghai is between two and three weeks old. The English, French, and American *Admirals* had just started on the 17th on their intended trip to Peking.

Intelligence from the Northern provinces is again favourable to the Patriotic cause, and from the reports of *Romanian* *Missionaries*, who have traversed the country, it is now certain that the serious failures and total checks it was said they had experienced, was told off without warranty from actual facts.

Admiral Sterling, with the frigate *Winchester*, and steamers *Encounter*, *Barracouta*, and *Sixty*, has returned to Hongkong. His Excellency has been diplomatic at Japan, where the question above mentioned was decided in the *Portuguese* *Rath* of Nagasaki for a period of six weeks. To warn the Japanese against giving assistance to the Russians, and to pave the way for amending our treaty, are supposed to have been the objects of the gallant admiral's visit. Nothing whatever has been seen or heard of the Russian Pacific fleet, and are this, no doubt, that section on the American side has struck to the combined squadron under Admirals Price and Pointes.

Against Canton matters are about the same as last reported. The rebels are somewhat quiet, and have moved their lines a little further from the city; but

this is supposed to be from strategic motives, it being as evident to them, doubtless, as to every one else that they have only to fire the Imperialists out, and to cause them, by repeated levies on the wealthy inhabitants to pay the troops (so alienating their best supporters) to gain all they desire without waste of powder. The Imperialists go out every now and then, and make a show of fighting; but after a whole day's skirmishing, if as many as three are killed on either side it is grand work.

After the above was written, we heard that there had been some heavy firing in a direction north of Canton the day before yesterday, from which we infer that the rebels have again advanced their lines.

Boats' crews from H. M. S. *Spartan*, under command of Lieutenant Palmer, have been doing good service against pirates on the West Coast, and succeeded in rescuing a French lady (Madame Fanny Loviot) who had been taken by pirates from the *sloop* of the Chinese *clipper* *Calista*.

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Of matters about Canton, speaking generally, they may be said to remain as last reported. We hear of horrible atrocities being perpetrated every now and then by the Mandarins, but of no important success, or otherwise. Two ships—some of which of new tonnage have arrived, somewhat damaged, within the last two days; and it is to be hoped in as will follow, to dislodge the rebels from their positions.

Matters continue quiet at Foo-chow, and there appears to be no immediate prospect of an outbreak.

Trade goes on as usual, and people seem to pursue their daily employment without fear. But in proportion as the Chinese Government feel themselves strong in any locality, to the same extent they manifest a disposition to make engagements with foreigners.

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At length, however, permission arrived from the capital for the Governor of Nangasaki to negotiate with Admiral Sterling, and a Convention was signed, similar to we believe in all respects to that entered into with the Americans, namely, that the two parts of Shangha and Hakakai should be thrown open to British trade.

At the same time, permission was granted to the crews of the vessels to land on an island in the harbour, three-quarters of a mile in circumference; but with the exception of those officers who accompanied the Admiral in his three ceremonial visits to the Governor, on which occasion all view of the surrounding country or even of the town, was prevented by a fence ten to twelve feet high extending from the wharf to the houses in which the *enclosed* took place, not a single individual was allowed to set foot on the island.

No traffic was permitted, and all *excurseurs* on the part of the officers to procure specimens of lacquered ware, &c., proved unsuccessful. Indeed every thing was done, and successfully, but under a gird of the utmost politeness, to teach their visitors that their company had rather dispensed with.

The Squadron got under weigh on the 20th instant, after a long and disagreeable stay of six weeks, and returned to Hongkong, where, though previously separated in a gale, the vessels, as above mentioned, have all arrived in safety.

NEW ZEALAND.

CANTERBURY.

By the *Waterloo* we have received Canterbury papers to December 16th, and from information they contain we are enabled to present our readers with the following, which will, no doubt, be interesting. The Provincial Council have recently passed an amended *Ordinance* for the regulation of the means of scab and scatich in sheep.

On the 27th of October, the *Standard* says: "If we may judge from the *Waterloo* the *Ordinance* will require beyond that furnished by circumstances under our own eyes of the absolute necessity of a stringent law, not only for checking the spread of scab, but for absolutely eradicating it, such proof would be found in the report of a committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales." With the view taken by that committee the members of the Provincial Council, and were of opinion that if the scab were allowed to take hold in the country, it would prove to be a curse to the province.

Speaking first of the financial condition of the settlement, His Honour the *Speaker* says:—

"I am happy to be able to inform you that a very considerable sum will be at your disposal for the current financial year.

The actual revenue during the past year having exceeded that estimated by the sum of £15,292 16s. 3d., while the expenditure was less than £18,522 16s. 3d. is consequently available towards the expenditure of the current year, which, when added to the £10,000 set apart for the same period, will, besides defraying the expenses of the various departments of the Government, furnish a sum of about £25,000 to be appropriated to public works and immigration."

An agent has been sent to England to carry out a scheme for a general immigration into the settlement, a chief feature in which is a plan for affording assistance to those in the colony who have made an independent life for themselves, and are willing to bring out their friends and relations to share their profits and to co-operate with them in their future operations. Several local ordinances have been passed by the Provincial Council which have been long needed, and which are now beginning to work satisfactorily. The export of wool will this year reach a value of £25,000. And the harvest, after supplying the local market, promises a sufficient surplus, for which a ready sale will be found in the English market.

When in justice to the colonists at large the colony would withdraw its support altogether, and the church would cast upon its own resources. He did not look forward to that time with apprehension.

It had been said, and he protracted it would be said that he most distinctly denied it: such a course would, in his opinion (and he claimed the right in common with others in this colony to the exercise of private judgment), make the minister the servant of his congregation, destroy his independence, and impair his usefulness.

The plan by which it was proposed to avail itself of the services of the church was as follows:

When the *Waterloo* arrived, he would call a

meeting of the ministers of the church, and call upon them to resign their charge, and to give up their parishes to the church. The members of the church would then be called together, and a general meeting would be held, at which the members of the church would be invited to contribute to a fund to be used for the support of the church.

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